

Westwood Environmental Advisory Committee

Monday February 18, 2013
Minutes



Attending: Christine Blaney, Alfonse Carratura
Elizabeth Muroski, Conor Odell (*Secretary*),
Yash Risbud, Michael Ruane (*Chair*),
Cindy Waneck

Regrets: None

Ruane called mtg to order at 7:35pm
Minutes of previous mtg approved + seconded
Elizabeth Muroski introduced and confirmed as new member.

Westwood's Biggest Loser

Project has stalled. (Ruane has reached out to Public Service which put him in touch with a utility in South Jersey about the regulation of the proposed contest. This proved to be a dead end.)

Community Garden

- New location has been confirmed: past the dog run near the DPW and old shooting range.
- Some action should be taken to verify the safety of eating food grown on the site. (Methane levels have already been measured and are good. The raised planters will probably be sufficient to keep the garden safe from contaminants in the ground.)
- The Borough is willing to provide wood chips produced from some of the wreckage of Sandy.
- Coffee Grounds will be provided by Sogno's Company.
- Further discussion is required to iron out the specifics of the planters and fencing that will eventually be installed. The fence could be chain-link with pipe and vinyl or it could be a split-rail fence (2X4 spacing for that?) Anchor Fencing in Emerson is a possible supplier.
- Waneck presented Public Health, Law and Policy's Ground Rules: A Legal Toolkit for Community Gardens for us to review ([Ground Rules: A Legal Toolkit for Community Gardens](#)).
- Motion put forward by Blaney to recommend the implementation of pesticide-free zones on the Westvale fields, seconded by Risbud. More information on this subject will be obtained from the NJ Environmental Federation.
- Crushed stone could be used for drainage under the garden plots and double as pathways.
- Carratura suggested the committee/Borough seek sponsors for the garden, especially local nurseries.

Blue Acres

- Comprises two empty lots along the stream, three contiguous lots on one side of Harding, and two on the other.
- Uses for the land were discussed. We can encourage secondary succession on the land through the planting of grasses first, then shrubby plants, and then finally taller trees.
- Blaney will reach out to a contact at Rutgers about recommendations for which plant species to use.
- The existing empty lots are currently owned by the Borough. Waneck will reach out to the Shady Trees Commission to ask if they would like to plant native plant species on the land.

Homework

- Blaney will reach out to man at Rutgers about planting in Blue Acres and will find more information about pesticide-free zones in New Jersey.
- Ruane will reach out to Westwood High School Physics Department to ask about new student members.
- Ruane, Waneck, and Carratura will survey the Community Garden site.
- Waneck will reach out to the Shade Tree Commission about planting native species in the vacant lots.

Next mtg: March 18

Mtg. adjourned at 8:55pm